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THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Note verbale dated 9 June 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Secretariat of the Sub-Commission

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and has the honour to enclose herewith a study entitled "The Impact of the Economic Sanctions on the Enjoyment of Human Rights."

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq would be grateful if the enclosed study could be circulated as an official document of the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission under agenda item 4.

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THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS ON THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The selective use of international sanctions repeated by the Security Council during this decade, particularly against developing countries, including four Arab States, namely Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Sudan and Somalia, has had a marked effect. In view of the increasingly serious impact of sanctions on human rights, and based on the cruel and bitter experience of Iraq and the other States against which this measure was imposed, the Government of Iraq, with a view to averting a similar impact in the future, diligently submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly of the United Nations numerous detailed studies on the impact of international sanctions on the enjoyment of human rights. Regrettably, however, the matter failed to draw the necessary attention of the Commission, despite the lengthy interim which has passed. The Government of the Republic of Iraq therefore wishes to seize the opportunity presented by the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights to submit this study on the impact of international sanctions on the enjoyment of human rights in Iraq, particularly since they have been applied against the people of Iraq in a manner that is unprecedented in its arbitrariness. It hopes that the Commission will join in studying the impact of sanctions on the enjoyment of human rights and propose criteria with view to thwarting that impact.

The Security Council adopted resolution 661 (1990), pursuant to which a comprehensive ban was imposed on Iraq's exports and imports. All of Iraq's cash reserves in foreign banks were also frozen. It then adopted resolutions 665 (1990) and 670 (1990), which stepped up the measures under the embargo to include sea and air carriage, as well as other Iraqi assets.

The following is a brief account of the impact of the comprehensive embargo on various sectors in Iraq.

I. Economic, social and cultural impact

The circumstances which Iraq is experiencing as a result of the comprehensive economic embargo imposed on it since August 1990 have produced a severe shortage of the resources available to the State for the fulfilment of its commitments, consisting primarily of revenues from Iraqi oil, which is Iraq's main source of income. The grave and distressing impact of sanctions has had repercussions on all human rights and it is no longer possible to ensure the fundamental rights of the Iraqi citizen to food and medicine. As a result, large numbers of Iraqi citizens, mostly from the disadvantaged social groups, have died. A disastrous consequence of the embargo against Iraq is the rise in the number of child deaths; in 1997, the number of deaths amounted to 58,845 among children aged under five and to 58,942 among those aged over five, bringing the total number of child deaths since the embargo was first imposed to 1,035,415 so far. Moreover, the performance of the health sector has declined substantially owing to the shortage of medicines, which caused the spread of malnutrition and epidemic diseases. Viral nephritis among mothers and children is now eight times higher than before the embargo, while respiratory disorders are four times higher and poliomyelitis and malaria five times higher. Large numbers of civilians, mostly from the disadvantaged social groups of women and the aged, have also fallen victim to the decline in performance of hospitals and

health institutions, where there is now a virtual standstill due to shortage and loss of the equipment and machinery vital to sustaining their operation on a daily basis. This sector alone requires an input of over $2 billion if the performance of health institutions is to be restored to normal in the light of increases in population and disease. As for the food situation, in 1990, Iraq was importing $2,958 million worth of foodstuffs to cover its requirements, whereas now, following implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, the spending on this sector is no more than 25 per cent of that amount, meaning that the Iraqi people is deprived of its minimum food and living requirements. Due to the imposition of the comprehensive embargo against its people, the Government of Iraq has assumed the task of providing food by means of the ration card system, which supplies each citizen with only 1,300 calories daily, as animal proteins (such as cheese, meat and milk) are not included on the card. The number of daily calories provided to citizens increased to 2,050 following implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations in 1996. This, however, supplied only 60 per cent of the normal individual requirement of 2,750 calories recommended by international food establishments.

The educational sector has also declined due to the severe shortage of the most basic practical requirements; for instance, there is shortfall of 65,000 chairs and 40 million school books, and even pencils and exercise books are in scarce supply. Furthermore, over 9,000 school buildings are in need of renovation, maintenance and preservation work, a fact which has a considerable bearing on increasing the number of school drop-outs, of whom there are now over 400,000 throughout all primary school stages. The embargo on scientific items has also widened the scientific and technological development gap between Iraq and the outside world, and universities and specialist science institutes are no longer able to maintain contact with their foreign counterparts or exchange information, experiences and visits with them due to lack of available financial resources. (We enclose herewith detailed charts on the impact of the embargo on the health situation in Iraq.)

II. Family planning services

Family planning services are impeded by the ongoing comprehensive embargo imposed since August 1990 in that the need for the provision of such services remains unfulfilled, as Security Council resolution 661 (1990) precludes the shipment of materials and equipment for the reproductive health and family planning project. As a result, the Family Planning Association in Iraq has not yet received the material and equipment earmarked for 1997 from the International Planned Parenthood Federation. It is no longer possible to provide more than 18 per cent of the services and requirements of the target groups, which are in the greatest need of family planning and reproductive health services as a human right and as a preventive and precautionary measure aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality, the indicators for which are still seriously high, as confirmed and documented by various specialized United Nations agencies and by non-governmental organizations and bodies, as previously stated.

Iraqi women constitute 48.7 per cent of Iraq's total population. Like all other Iraqi citizens, they have suffered the adverse effects of the embargo in the form of a drop in income, rapidly escalating prices and a sinking level of food and health security. Owing to the hard economic pressures created by the

comprehensive embargo imposed on Iraq, large numbers of Iraqi women were forced to abandon working life by resigning or retiring from jobs because of fast increasing living costs and inadequate salaries. They are therefore denied the opportunity to participate in public life, having instead to devote themselves to domestic work in order to provide the daily requirements of the family and children in particular. The implications of this phenomenon are not confined to the present period; on the contrary, they reach into the future and restrict the opportunity for women to participate effectively in building society.

The adverse impact of the embargo on women and on their physical and mental health as a result of the daily suffering caused by the shortage of food, medicines and essential humanitarian needs required by the family, and by women in particular, is also abundantly clear, maternal deaths having risen to 117 per 10,000 births.

The continuing embargo meant that the State was faced with setting important and decisive priorities in order to guarantee the survival of citizens by ensuring the minimum of food in order to prevent starvation. Programmes for the advancement of women and the elimination of discrimination against women therefore came to assume second place behind the priority of the right to life.

III. The environment

Reference must first be made to the devastation to which the environment in Iraq was exposed as a result of the military aggression launched against it in January 1991, the impact and effects of which will persist for generations to come. Explosives were dropped on Iraq in quantities which provided the equivalent of seven times the destructive force of the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in Japan. Moreover, the act of dropping explosives in those quantities, combined with the destruction of ordnance, weapons, industrial and oil installations, electrical power stations and so on, resulted in the leakage of thousands of tons of toxins into the different elements of the environment (air, water and soil), causing extensive damage to the ecosystem in general. More significant still is the killing of human beings, who are the means and ends for achievement of the goal of civilized development.

In their war against Iraq, the Coalition forces used internationally prohibited weapons, such as depleted uranium shells, for the first time in an international conflict, which set a dangerous precedent. Using material evidence, studies carried out by specialists confirmed that the effect of such weaponry of destruction to human beings and the environment will last for a long time to come.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq has endeavoured to disclose the facts and provide irrefutable evidence concerning the use of prohibited weapons and their effects on the environment and population in Iraq (see documents E/CN.4/1997/113 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/32). It is worth pointing out that, at its 1997 session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted resolution 1996/16, in which it expressed its concern at the use of weapons of mass or indiscriminate destruction both against members of the armed forces and against civilian populations, resulting in death, misery and disability. It also expressed its concern at repeated reports on the long-term consequences of the use of such weapons upon human life and

health and upon the environment. The Commission requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit his report to it after gathering relevant information from Governments and specialized organizations. In that report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/27), which he submitted to the forty-ninth session, held in 1997, he expressed the international concern at the use of weapons of mass destruction due to their long-term effects on the life, health and environment of human beings.

As a result of the damage inflicted on electrical power stations, all sewage treatment units in towns and industrial zones ceased operation and enormous quantities of hazardous and untreated waste consequently leaked into rivers and lakes. Stations for pumping drinking water also ceased operation due to lack of electrical power, as did sewage stations. Inhabitants were therefore forced to use polluted water from natural sources without it being purified, which caused the spread of epidemics and serious intestinal disorders among citizens.

The degradation of the environment was not to end, even with the cessation of military operations; on the contrary, it worsened with the comprehensive economic embargo imposed on Iraq since August 1990, since, under the embargo, efforts aimed at eliminating environmental damage are hindered and import of the spare parts, equipment and primary materials needed to guarantee the efficiency of water purification stations is prohibited. Consequently, the operational power and capacity of water purification projects has decreased from 45 million m^3 in 1991 to 9 million m^3 in 1997.

On another note, the damage inflicted on the environment has had repercussions on the health of citizens due to the idleness of sewage stations and the suspension of waste collection and disposal. As a result, the technical authorities were obliged to pump sewage and waste water directly into rivers at a rate of 5 m^3 per second, which brought about a substantial rise in disease. Furthermore, municipal waste disposal performances fell due to lack of machinery, the unavailability of spare parts and the shortage of labour. Efforts to control air pollution and measures to halt desertification are also hampered by the acute shortage of the irrigation pumps, agricultural machinery, spare parts, seeds, fertilizers and equipment needed to attain the lowest acceptable level of environmental and health requirements. Fertile land areas have also diminished under the embargo because the machinery in nurseries is running at 50 per cent below capacity and because citizens resorted to felling trees to use for heating and cooking purposes after the gas stations and oil derivatives normally used to those ends were destroyed during the military aggression in 1991.

In this context, Iraq believes that a reminder of the fundamental human rights principles is in order. In principle, therefore:

> Everyone has the fundamental right to be free from hunger, as well as the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food and clothing. Everyone also has the right to the continuous improvement of living conditions and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. These rights are guaranteed by the international human rights instruments, primarily the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in

particular article 25, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular articles 11 and 12. The right to food and the right to be free from hunger have been recognized as fundamental rights that must be ensured at all times, and a prerequisite to their exercise is the equally fundamental right of peoples to control their primary resources. The ban under Security Council resolution 661 (1990) on Iraq's export of oil, the natural resource on which it is dependent, means that it is denied its right as guaranteed under article 1, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which stipulates that "all peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence." The Declaration issued by the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, also makes the same affirmation in paragraph 31, which states that "food should not be used as a tool for political pressure".

To pursue a policy of causing hunger is regarded as a crime of genocide which is punishable by international law, whether committed in time of peace or time of war, and which civilized international society undertakes to prevent and punish, as stipulated in article 1 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In defining acts of genocide, article 2 of the Convention specifies "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; ... (d) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

Although imposition of the economic embargo on Iraq pursuant to Security Council resolution 661 (1990) of 8 August 1990 excluded food and medical items, from the practical point of view it is a comprehensive embargo, as the exclusion is of negligible value, Iraq having been denied opportunities of access to financial resources following imposition of the embargo on the export of its oil and the freeze placed on its assets abroad.

These circumstances have brought about complete and utter ruin of disastrous proportions, the horrendous consequences of which encompassed all circles of Iraqi society in such a manner that there can be no redress for a whole generation. This tragic situation attracted the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who referred to it in paragraph 711 of his report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization (A/50/1), in which he described the humanitarian situation in Iraq by saying that "health conditions have continued to deteriorate throughout the country because of the shortage of essential drugs and medical supplies. The situation is further aggravated by the inadequate supply of potable water and poor sanitation facilities, as essential equipment and spare parts are lacking to rehabilitate the water, sewage and electricity supply systems." In paragraph 716 of the same report, the

Secretary-General states that "children are increasingly dying of ailments linked to malnutrition and lack of adequate medical care."

The Secretary-General also discussed the question of international sanctions and their effect in the supplement to an Agenda for Peace (S/1995/1), paragraph 70 of which states that "sanctions, as is generally recognized, are a blunt instrument. They raise the ethical question of whether suffering inflicted on vulnerable groups in the target country is a legitimate means ... Sanctions also always have unintended or unwanted effects ... They can conflict with the development objectives of the Organization and can do long-term damage ...".

During a press conference in Geneva in March 1996, the Assistant Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Middle East stated that the embargo imposed on Iraq since 1990 had pushed back the country's health situation by 50 years.

For its part, the Rome Declaration issued by the World Food Summit of the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO), held in November 1996, stressed that food should not be used as a tool for political pressure.

The agreement with the Secretariat of the United Nations in the framework of the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995), which permits the export of some Iraqi oil for foodstuffs, medicine and other essential needs, does not satisfy the minimum requirements of the population. In this respect, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in its resolution 107 on the humanitarian situation in Iraq, adopted at its forty-eighth session in 1996, took note of the agreement between Iraq and the United Nations on the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995), but was "concerned nevertheless at reliable information according to which children would continue to die after the agreement, since it does not correspond to the minimum needs, in particular food and medicines, of the civilian population."

At its forty-ninth session in 1997, the Sub-Commission issued a further humanitarian appeal, contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/L.57, in which it affirmed that the economic embargo caused extensive damage to the health and nutrition of the Iraqi civilian population, particularly children and women. It requested that the imposition of such measures should have a time limit, following which they would be revoked, even if their objectives had not been achieved. From a different aspect, the constant interventions of the United States Administration and its intractable position of procrastination, postponement and deliberate unjustified delay, driven by political intentions and schemes to impede implementation of the agreement, inflicted further damage on the life of the Iraqi people.

Mr. Graça Machel, the expert of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, submitted a report to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly in 1996 entitled "Impact of armed conflict on children" (A/51/306) in which she stated that "humanitarian exceptions tend to be

ambiguous and are interpreted arbitrarily and inconsistently ... Delays, confusion and the denial of requests to import essential humanitarian goods cause resource shortages ... These effects ... inevitably fall most heavily on the poor." Several reports highlighting the same issue were also published by WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and FAO.

Paragraph 821 of the 1996 report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the work of the Organization (A/51/1) stated that the humanitarian assistance provided to Iraq was far below the requirements created by the adversities facing children, women, the aged and an increasing number of needy families in Iraq. Various United Nations agencies working in the field provided information on the continuing deterioration in health and food conditions, with an estimated four million people, most of them children aged under five years, being subjected to the risk of serious bodily and mental harm due to malnutrition.

Mr. Yasushi Akashi, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, affirmed during his visit to Iraq in March 1997 that he had witnessed real human suffering, as well as lamentable and tragic conditions in hospitals, a situation which was not confined to Baghdad, but extended to include the northern regions. He said that what he saw during his visit was clear evidence of the human suffering of the people of Iraq and that these were the tragic results of the embargo imposed on Iraq by the Security Council. He added that what he saw was unfortunately due to the economic sanctions which the Security Council decided to impose under specific circumstances and said that it was a question which should be discussed as a case by the international community.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which is a United Nations treaty body, adopted General Comment No. 8 (1997) concerning the relationship between economic sanctions and respect for the economic, social and cultural rights stipulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Paragraph 3 of the General Comment stated that "sanctions ... have a dramatic impact on the rights recognized in the Covenant. Thus, for example, they often cause significant disruption in the distribution of food, pharmaceuticals, ... drinking water, severely interfere with the functioning of basic health and education systems, and ..." Paragraph 6 of the same General Comment stipulates that "insufficient attention is being paid to the impact of sanctions on vulnerable groups ... There is thus a need to inject a human rights dimension into deliberations on this issue."

At its twenty-fourth session, held in February 1998, the Standing Arab Human Rights Committee of the League of Arab States issued recommendations rejecting the arbitrary and selective manner in which international resolutions were applied, as it led to the blatant violation of human rights and undermined the achievements of peoples in that field.

Recommendations

In view of the seriousness of the situation resulting from the imposition of comprehensive international sanctions, and given that Iraq has directly addressed the adverse and tragic impact of those sanctions, the Government of the Republic of Iraq submits to the fifty-fourth session in 1998 of the

Commission on Human Rights various recommendations that should assist in giving peoples the opportunity whereby enjoyment of their fundamental rights to food, housing, clothing and health services takes precedence during the imposition of sanctions, the aim being to ensure that the application of sanctions does not affect the enjoyment of such rights. These proposals are intended to offer an objective analysis of a phenomenon of which the international community has become aware during the present decade. Derived from the Charter of the United Nations and the mandatory human rights principles, they are as follows:

Human rights should be emphasized as one of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations to which the same importance should be attached as to its other purposes. They should also be interlinked so that measures for the maintenance of international peace and security (Article 1, paragraph 1 of the Charter of the United Nations) are not separated from the second purpose stipulated in paragraph 2 of the Charter relating to the right of peoples to self-determination or from the violation of human rights (Article 1, paragraph 3). In the same vein, international cooperation for the strengthening of human rights should not threaten international peace and security.

A commitment should be made to the mandatory human rights principles, most importantly the right of peoples to self-determination, following from which is the right of peoples to dispose of their natural resources without being deprived of their own means of subsistence (articles 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). The right to development should be regarded as an inalienable human right (article 1 of the Declaration on the Right to Development) and the use of food as a tool for political pressure should not be permitted (paragraph 31 of the Vienna Declaration).

Emphasis should be placed on recognizing the essential importance of ensuring the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and on putting into effect the Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 4 of the Convention), thus making the exercise of such rights an international obligation, as well as a national one.

A distinction should be made between the commitment to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and international agreements on the one hand and the provision of humanitarian assistance on the other so that such assistance does not replace the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

The universality of human rights should not be used as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of States and diminishing their national sovereignty, while the arbitrary and selective application of international resolutions imposing international sanctions should be rejected on the grounds that they lead to the blatant violation of human rights and undermine the achievements of peoples in this field.

In submitting this report, the Government of the Republic of Iraq aims to draw the attention of the Commission to the seriousness of the matter and the need to study it objectively. At the same time, international organizations,

particularly those concerned with human rights, should face up to their responsibility to end this human suffering and demand the immediate lifting of the embargo from the people of Iraq, as the insistence on its continuation conflicts with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, particularly now that Iraq has fully satisfied its international obligations. The continued imposition of the embargo on Iraq has become a form of genocide and reprisal aimed at eliminating the people of Iraq as a whole and denying it the right to life.

Total number of deaths from selected causes due to the economic embargo according to period and age group

Period	Age group		Total
	Under-fives	Over-fives	
1989	7,110	20,224	27,334
1990	8,903	23,561	32,464
1991	27,473	58,469	85,942
1992	46,933	76,530	123,463
1993	49,762	78,261	128,023
1994	52,905	80,776	133,681
1995	55,823	82,961	138,784
1996	56,997	83,284	140,281
1997	58,845	85,942	144,787

The number of deaths in all age groups from August to December 1990, the period when the economic embargo first began, amounted to 12,727.

Selected causes

Under-fives

1. Acute respiratory disorders
2. Diarrhoea and intestinal disorders
3. Malnutrition

Over-fives

1. Heart disease
2. High blood pressure
3. Diabetes
4. Kidney disease
5. Liver disease
6. Malignant tumours

Infant mortality rate: 92.7 deaths per 1,000 live births
Mortality rate among women of childbearing age: 117 deaths per 10,000 live births

Deaths among the under-five age group from selected causes due to the economic embargo

Period	Monthly mortality rate
1989	593
1990	742
1991	2,289
1992	3,911
1993	4,147
1994	4,409
1995	4,651
1996	4,750
1997 January	5,405
February	4,346
March	4,271
April	3,372
May	4,261
June	5,512
July	6,466
August	3,160
September	4,578
October	4,922
November	5,199
December	4,793
Monthly average	4,904

Compiled by the Vital Statistics Section at the Ministry of Health.

Deaths from selected causes among the over-five age group due to the economic embargo

Period	Monthly mortality rate
1989	1,685
1990	1,963
1991	4,872
1992	6,377
1993	6,522
1994	6,731
1995	6,913
1996	6,940
1997 January	6,712
February	7,128
March	8,012
April	7,517
May	8,016
June	7,416
July	5,787
August	6,254
September	7,194
October	8,124
November	7,087
December	6,681
Monthly average	7,162

Compiled by the Vital Statistics Section at the Ministry of Health.

Impact of the economic embargo on the nutrition of children aged under five

Type of case	1990		1991			1992			1993		
	Total number	Monthly average	Total number	Monthly average	Times increase since 1990	Total number	Monthly average	Times increase since 1990	Total number	Monthly average	Times increase since 1990
Malnutrition	485	41	12,796	1,066	26.3	12,709	1,145	27.9	15,128	1,261	30.8
Emaciation due to malnutrition	5,193	433	96,186	8,015	18.5	111,407	9,289	21.4	139,346	11,612	26.8
Other types of malnutrition (lack of albumen, calories and vitamins)	96,809	8,063	947,974	87,998	9.8	1,123,306	93,610	21.6	1,235,657	102,971	12.8
All cases	102,487	8,537	1,056,965	88,079	10.3	1,248,540	104,045	12.1	1,390,131	1,158,844	13.6

Compiled by the Vital Statistics Section at the Ministry of Health.

Impact of the economic embargo on the nutrition of children aged under five (cont.)

Type of case	1990			1991			1992			1993		
	Total number	Monthly average	Times increase since 1990	Total number	Monthly average	Times increase since 1990	Total number	Monthly average	Times increase since 1990	Total number	Monthly average	Times increase since 1990
Malnutrition	10,175	1,748	42.6	26,984	2,249	54.8	28,111	2,342	57.12	68,475	2,373	57.7
Emaciation due to malnutrition	101,296	16,025	37	244,023	20,335	17	247,302	20,609	47.59	253,483	21,123	48.8
Other types of malnutrition (lack of albumen, calories and vitamins)	1,576,194	131,349	16.3	1,753,355	146,113	18.1	1,802,112	150,176	18.62	1,850,771	154,231	11.12
All cases	1,708,465	149,122	17.5	2,024,362	168,697	19.7	2,077,525	173,127	20.27	2,136,729	177,727	

Compiled by the Vital Statistics Section at the Ministry of Health.

Percentage of birthweights under 2.5 kg per total registered births weighed in health institutions during the period of the economic embargo

Period	Monthly average
1990	4.5
1991	10.8
1992	17.6
1993	19.7
1994	21.1
1995	22.05
1996	22.6
1997 January	23.7
February	23.5
March	21.3
April	22
May	20.47
June	22.6
July	23.8
August	22.7
September	23.8
October	23.4
November	24.01
December	24.7
Monthly average	23.02

Compiled by the Vital Statistics Section at the Ministry of Health.

Effect of the economic embargo on major surgical operations

Period	Monthly average	Percentage of fall since 1989
1989	15,125	-
1990	8,668	43
1991	6,507	57
1992	5,477	-63.7
1993	5,202	65.6
1994	4,679	69.1
1995	4,492	70.3
1996	4,417	70.8
1997 January	3,876	-74.4
February	4,350	-71.3
March	3,954	-73.9
April	4,875	-67.7
May	4,525	-70.1
June	4,853	67.9
July	5,012	-66.9
August	5,197	65.64
September	4,120	-73.8
October	3,800	-74.8
November	3,923	-74
December	3,798	-74.9
Total	52,283	

Compiled by the Vital Statistics Section at the Ministry of Health.

Impact of the economic embargo on laboratory tests

Period	Monthly average	Percentage below 1989
1989	1,494,050	-
1990	1,091,230	-27
1991	635,446	-57
1992	589,952	-60.5
1993	576,235	-61.4
1994	531,384	-64.4
1995	501,095	-66.4
1996	500,036	-66.53
1997 February	367,751	-68.7
March	471,530	-68.4
April	469,669	-68.6
May	522,126	-65.05
June	551,883	-63.1
July	558,233	-62.6
August	571,302	61.76
September	506,427	-66.1
October	496,865	-66.7
November	507,219	-66
December	432,464	-71.05

Compiled by the Vital Statistics Section at the Ministry of Health.